National Conference on Kharif Campaign

593. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that two days National Conference on Agriculture for Kharif campaign 1989 has evolved a comprehensive strategy for achieving the target of foodgrains production for 1989-90; and

(b) if so, what is the target fixed and what efforts are being made to see that the target is achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The target fixed for foodgrains production for 1989-90 is 175 million tonnes.

In order to achieve this target, special attention is being given to Special Foodgrains Production Programme (SFPP) which covers Rice, Wheat, Maize and Pulses (Arhar and Gram). The Special Rice Production Programme which is being implemented in the Eastern States has also been unified with the SFPP-Rice. In addition, the Centrally Sponsored National Pulses Development Programme and Central Schemes such as Minikit Programmes for Rice, Wheat, Millets and Maize are also under implementation.

The increase in production is to be achieved through improvement in productivity by having more efficient management of agricultural operations and timely and easy availability of inputs.

Rabi Crop Production Target

594. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rabi production for 1988-89 has been achieved;

(b) if so, the target fixed last year;

(c) the extent to which it has been achieved;

(d) whether the State Governments, have forwarded the figures of rabi crop production; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (c) The targets for Rabi production for foodgrains and oilseeds for 1988-89 were fixed at 74.07 and 7.10 million tonnes respectively. According to present assessment, the likely production of Rabi crops would be around the targetted levels.

(d) and (e) The final estimates of production of rabi crops for 1988-89 have not yet become due from the States.

Performance of Agro-based industries

595. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of agro-based industries in the country has suffered during the last two years;

(b) whether the total industrial production has declined significanty;

(c) if so, what are the States where the production of agro-based industries has declined and what are the States where the performance of agro-based industry has improved; and

(d) what steps are being taken to improve the position?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) No survey on the performance of agro-based industries has been conducted by the Government during the last two years.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The average general index of industrial production has increased from 162.3 in 19[illegible]87-88 to 177.9 in 1988-89 (Base 1980-81=100). No Separate indices of production of agro-based industries are available.

(d) A new Ministry of Food Processing Industry has been formed for the development of Agro-Food Processing Industries in the country. In the cooperative sector, National Cooperative Development Corporation monitors the units assisted by them on regular periodic basis and site visits are also organised for taking remedial action on the technical deficiencies.

Measures to create more jobs in the country

596. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that number of measures have been taken by the States and the Central Government to create more jobs in the country during 1989;

(b) if so, what is the total number of jobs that will be created in the country in defferent States; and

(c) whether any comprehensive policy and programme has been evolved in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKRISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) to (c) The Central element in the development strategy of the Seventh Plan is the generation of productive employment. The policies and programmes to achieve this objective have been indicated in Chapter 3 of Volume-I and Chapter 5 of Volume-II of the Seventh Five Year Plan document. It is expected that additional employment of the order of 40.36 million Standard Person Years would be generated during the Plan period, i.e., 1985—90. Besides, a programme called "Self-Employment Programme for Urban Poor" is also being implemented since 1986. During 1989-90, a new intensive rural employment programme is being taken up aimed at creating fuller employment opportunities in backward districts.

Problems of Paddy Growers

597. SHRI ARANGIL SREEDHARAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what stringent steps have been taken/are being taken to reduce/remove the present problems faced by cultivation of paddy, throughout the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): The Central Sector/Sponsored Scheme of Minikit Programme of Rice and a Special Foodgrains Production Programme for Rice including Special Rice Production Programme for the Eastern States are being implemented to supplement the efforts of the State Governments for increasing paddy production. Under these schemes, assistance is provided to the paddy farmers for adoption of High Yielding Varieties, increased and efficient use of fertiliser including micronutrients, adoption of improved agricultural implements and plant protection equipment. Trainings are also imparted to the farmers for scientific method of cultivation.

In addition, central assistance is also made available to the States under the schemes of National Watershed Development Programme for rainfed agriculture, Assistance to Small and Marginal Farmers and for promoting fertiliser use in identified districts under Special Foodgrains Production Programme. The assistance under these schemes is *inter-alia* available to rice farmers.